

AllensPark

by: Andy Mann

I'm where you might find me, but doubtfully, I'm deep in the woods to observe the more obscure. I can imagine people enjoying a moment like this, but barely, it depends on your expectations of grandeur.

Mine are simple. Hell, I love this so much. The rock sometimes barely matters.

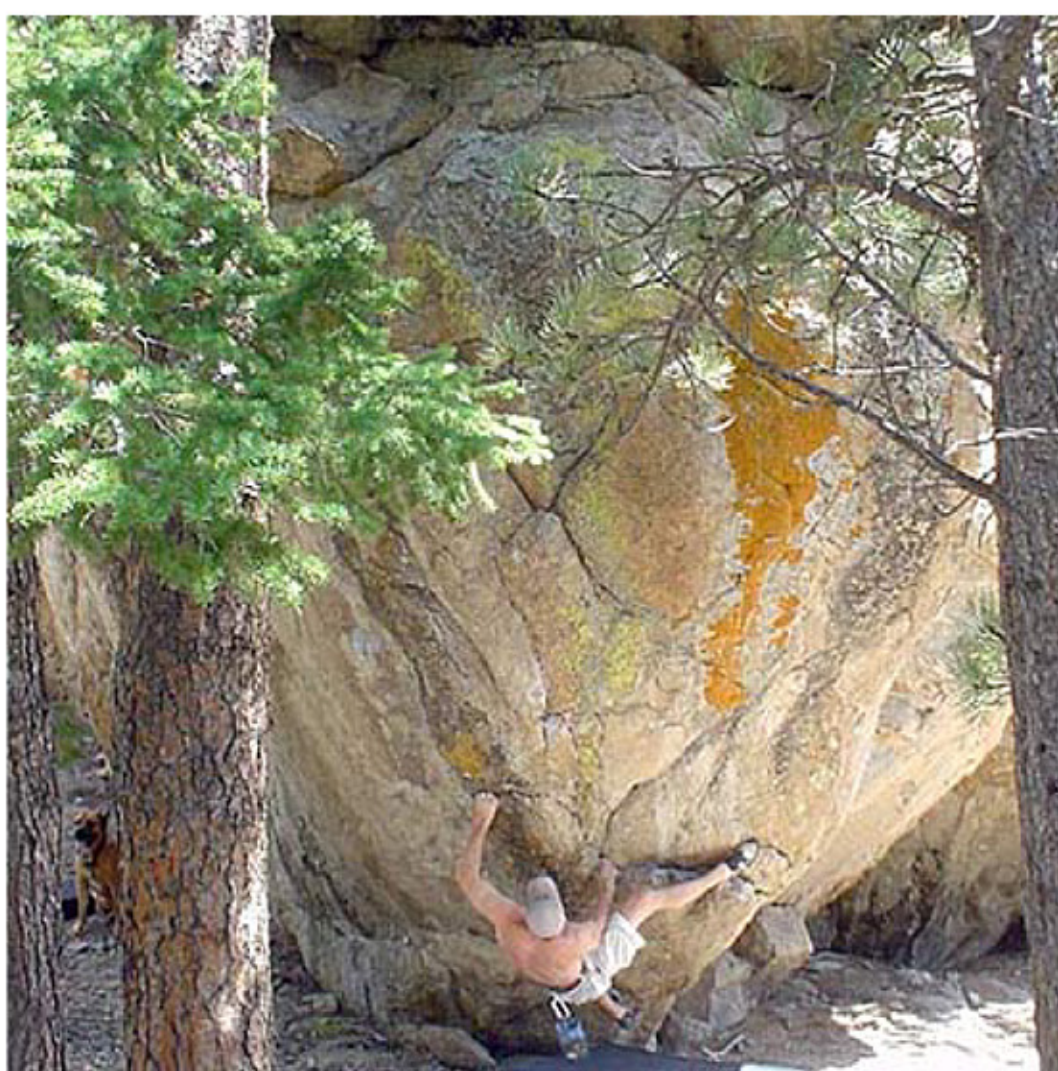
Allensparks' bouldering barely matters. Why? Cause you weren't there when it did. As bouldering areas are found and developed, many more fall into the past. The founders Mike Freischlag and Curt Frye took me to Allenspark over the last few weeks to reclean some holds.

When Mike and the late Skyler Crane, who died in a motorcycle accident a few years back, found a day of sport climbing at the Iron Clads, a crag east of Allenspark, a bit uninspiring, they went looking around the forest and found the bouldering. Good work boys, solid shit. Of course, I'll find out more than ten years later, but nothing's changed at these places, hardly anyone has even been there since. The area is OK by today's standards, but good enough to be held secret at the time.

Here's a quick story.

The Mammoth Rub Boulder, lets just call her big boned, was one of the many boulders in the area held sacred at the time of the area's development. Matt Samet, the area's premier developer, said, "at one point during the time we were developing Allenspark my friend was taking people up there to show them the area. At the time I was very proprietary of the place, for no good reason. A complete ego-maniac." Matt laughs at the recollection. " I told her, your not taking those people up there, I put up 98 percent of the problems, and I get to say who goes there and who doesn't! I was being such a prick." With great ego, and a healthy dose of good fun, Matt would culminate to calling himself "Allen" because "this is my Park. " (Classic) "The rest of the time they slagged the shit out of me! I took John Sherman up there, and he slandered me because of the glue and tic-marks." The slagging is evident in the names of the best problems. "Big Man On Campus", a powerful and dynamic V8 that climbs out of a nearby roof, directly refers to Matt's "seniority" of the area. As does "98percent" AKA "Allen", a V10, this amazing problem climbs out the steep polished prow of the Mammoth Rub. Surly a test piece for the time. And of the name Matt says, "I had it coming". Fun aside, Matt says," it is probably the hardest moves I've pulled off. Hard as fuck and very temperature dependent." After that a very strong Charlie Bentley did the problem from the sit. Matt thinks it checks in around V12. The full "98 percent" is still unrepeated.

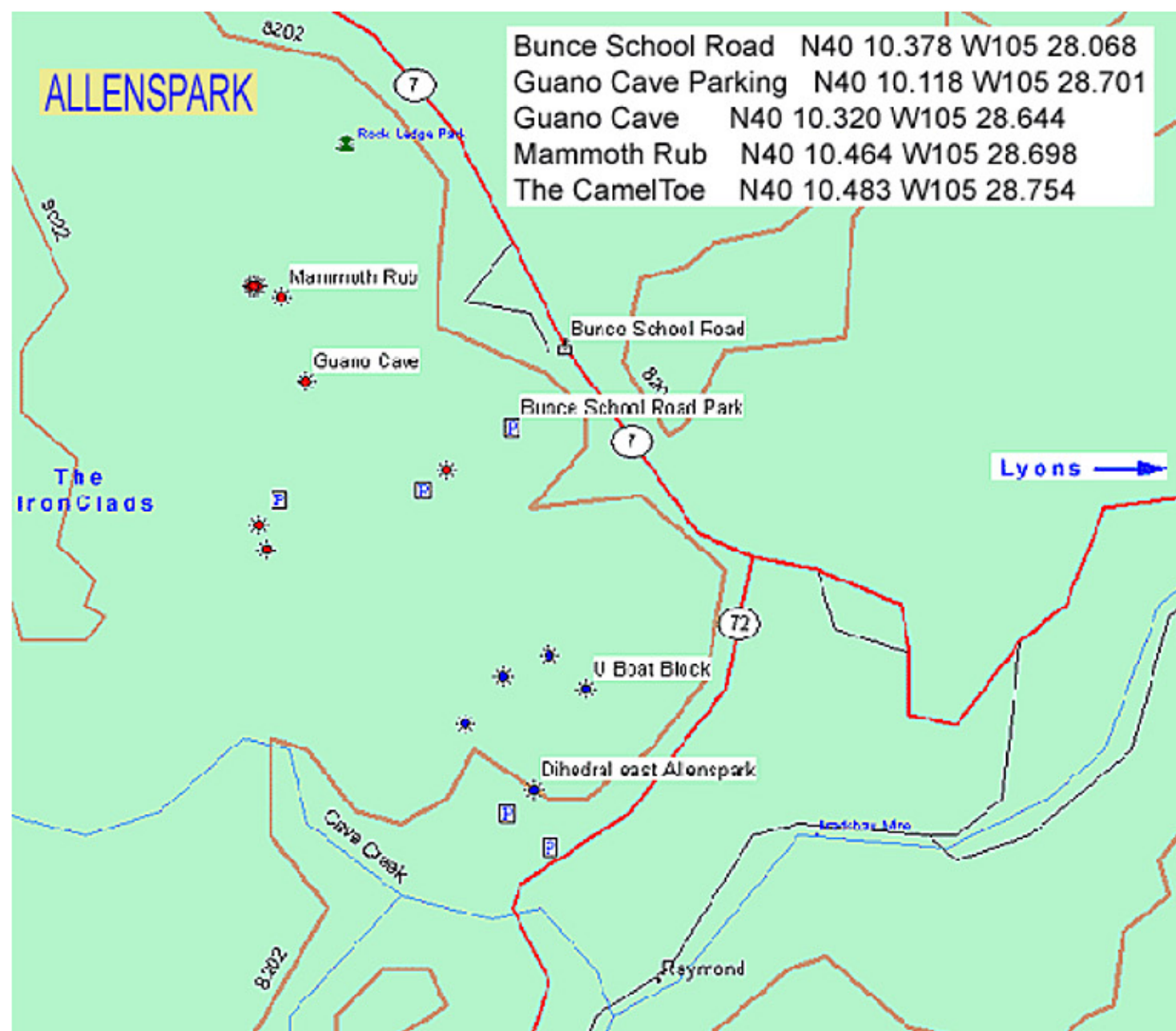
Some other classics on the Mammoth Rub are "Moss Boss", the best V5 I've ever climbed, "Skyler is the Man", V8, a memorial route to the original developer. "P-Diddy", V7, climbed first by Pete Zoeller, is visually stunning, and climbs the prow from a sit-down through streaks of vibrantly colored lichen. " To Die For" V6, "The Bulge" V7, "Death Flake" V3, and "Mouth Breather" V6, are also very aesthetic highballs with cruxes on top.



Nick Johnson on P-Diddy V7

On the back of the boulder you will find a low angle slab, V8/5.13b, and unrepeated. Landings? Perfect. Down the Hill from the Mammoth Rub is the Guano Roof. Walking around this boulder one could count well over 20 problems. And is a great warm up area in route to the Mammoth Rub. It has a huge shit filled cave (actually very good), a ghetto-esqe roof, Font like slabs, more roofs, and a side that has probably never been climbed.

Above the Mammoth Rub is another cluster of boulders with fine granite problems, including "Camel Toe" V5/6, and White Ice, a hard slab put up and named during the hype of a local Boulder problem.



rough overview to Allenspark

Allenspark East is just another bouldering area. I'm putting it out there if you like hard-to-find obscure bouldering. I found that a little story of a place helps it along. There are problems being put up, problems to be found, problems unrepeated, and people to tell you the stories of 'em. I wanted to hear the stories from the developers to make this a little more interesting for you and maybe learn something myself. But it was by watching the guys trying there hardest to climb Skyler's memorial route, a problem way above their level, I got all the beta I needed on why this place is special.

Like any area on any other day, it's about blood, sweat, tears, and a little slagging of your friends past and present.